

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 HEW-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4565

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAILED SOUTH AFRICAN
REFUGEE STUDENTS

1. GOS' RECENT JAILING OF MOST SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS
IN SWAZILND PROMPTS EMBASSY TO REVIEW OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO USG
FOR SUPPORT OF THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE SWAZILAND, AN OBJECTIVE
SHARED BY BOTH GOS AND REFUGEES THEMSELVES.

2. UNHCR REP SABITI HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN
OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS IN SWAZILAND:

A. THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED "O" LEVEL STUDIES --
BETWEEN 5 AND 10, INCLUDING SEVERAL ATTENDING UNIVERSITY.

B. THOSE WHO ARE IN THEIR "O" LEVEL YEAR OF STUDIES, I.E.,
AMERICAN ELEVENTH GRADE -- APPROXIMATELY 10.

C. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET REACHED "O" LEVEL YEAR OF STUDIES,
I.E., THOSE IN AMERICAN TENTH GRADE AND BELOW -- APPROXIMATELY 30.

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3. STUDENTS IN CATEGORY A WILL BE INTERVIEWED BY PHELPS-STOKES
FUND REP MS. IDA WOOD DURING WEEK MAY 8. IF MS. WOOD BELIEVES SOME
IN THAT CATEGORY MIGHT BE EDUCATIONALLY QUALIFIED FOR AMERICAN
INSTITUTIONS BUT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE IN
US, WE RECOMMEND THEY BE CONSIDERED FOR USG SUPPORT AT ONE OR
MORE AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES.

4. AS FOR STUDENTS IN CATEGORIES B AND C, RECOMMEND THEY BE CONSIDERED FOR USG SUPPORT AT SECONDARY OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA. SABITI STATES THAT INSTITUTIONS IN ZAMBIA, GAMBIA, AND SIERRA LEONE HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT QUALIFIED REFUGEE STUDENTS. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE NAMES OF THESE INSTITUTIONS BUT SAID ZAMBIAN ONE IS VOCATIONALLY ORIENTED AND HAD BEEN BUILT WITH REFUGEE-ORGANIZATION FUNDS.

5. IF DEPARTMENT AND AID REGARD PHELPS-STOKES FUND AS APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR SCREENING REFUGEE STUDENTS FOR THE INTRA-AFRICAN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MENTIONED ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE FOREGOING WITH MS. WOOD AND REQUEST HER TO DISCUSS PLACEMENT POSSIBILITIES WITH MENNONITE ADMINISTRATORS OF THOKOZA REFUGEE SCHOOL IN MBABANE, WHO CAN PROVIDE GOOD ASSESSMENT OF THEIR NON-JAILED STUDENTS AND COULD BE HELPFUL IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH PROMISING ONES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE REPLY BEFORE MS. WOOD'S ARRIVAL MAY 8.

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